Task Force Report on External Debt Servicing

1939. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set up a Task Force and a Policy Group on External Debt Statistics;

(b) if so, whether the Task Force and the Policy Group have submitted their eports;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what is India's External Debt and Debt Servicing Ratio as per the Task Force and Policy Group; and

(e) what is the external to which these differ from the earlier estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Recommendations of the Report of the Policy Group and Task Force on External Debt Statistics relate essentially to make debt statistics transparent and consistent with the definitions followed by international agencies.

(d) According to the Task Force and Policy Group Report, India's External Debt as on March 31, 1991 and December 31, 1991 was US $ 63.13 billion & US $ 66.06 billion respectively. The Task Force/Policy Group Report did not provide estimates of debt service payments by revised classification.

(e) The external debt of India as on March 31, 1991 according to old definition was US $ 67.03 billion. According to the revised classification, the estimate is US $ 63.13 billion. The two figures are not strictly comparable as their coverages differ.

Staff Positions in Rural and Urban Banks

1940. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the branches of public sector banks are over staffed in urban areas and under staffed in semi-uroan and rural areas;

(b) what is the general ratio of staff in rural and urban branches of the banks, bank-wise; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make the urban and rural branches staffed evenly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) Public Sector banks do have pockets of surplus staff, particularly in certain metropolitan and urban branches while some branches in rural/semi-urban areas may not be adequately staffed. The banks provide the staff with reference to the business requirements at a branch.

All the public sector banks have been asked draw a time bound programme to ensure that surplus staff is re-deployed in deficit areas. However, for various reasons, it has not been possible to re-deploy staff from surplus pockets to deficit pockets in one stroke. As per the various awards/settlements governing the service conditions of bank employees, the members of the award staff cannot be transferred from one language area to another language area. Restrictions have, however, been placed on staff growth to enable the banks, inter alia, to overcome the problems of surplus staff in certain pockets on the one hand and need for deployment of additional staff so recruited to be utilised (i) against wastages (ii) for posting in the deficit areas and (iii) for new branches. As per the reports available with the government, banks are implementing these instructions.